

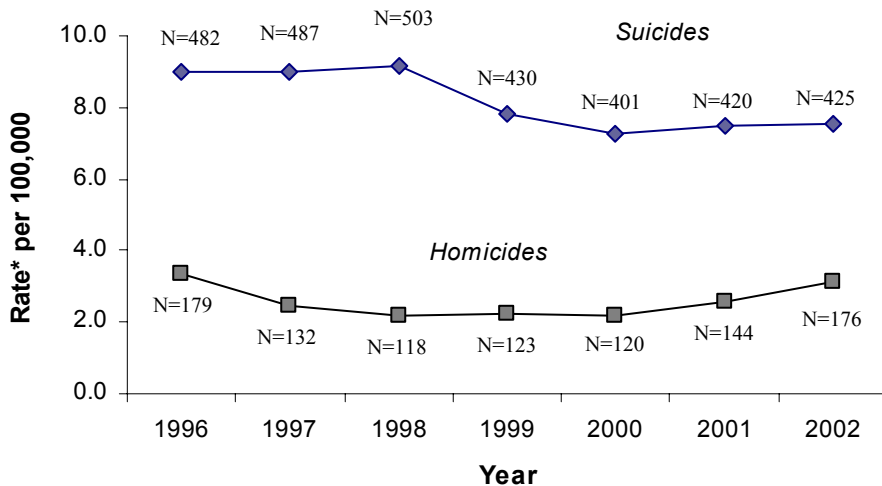
SUICIDES AND SELF-INFLICTED INJURIES IN MASSACHUSETTS: DATA UPDATE

Notes from the Injury Surveillance Program at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

January, 2005

Suicides

Figure 1. Trend in Suicide and Homicide Rates*, MA Residents Age 10 and Older, 1996-2002



In 2002:

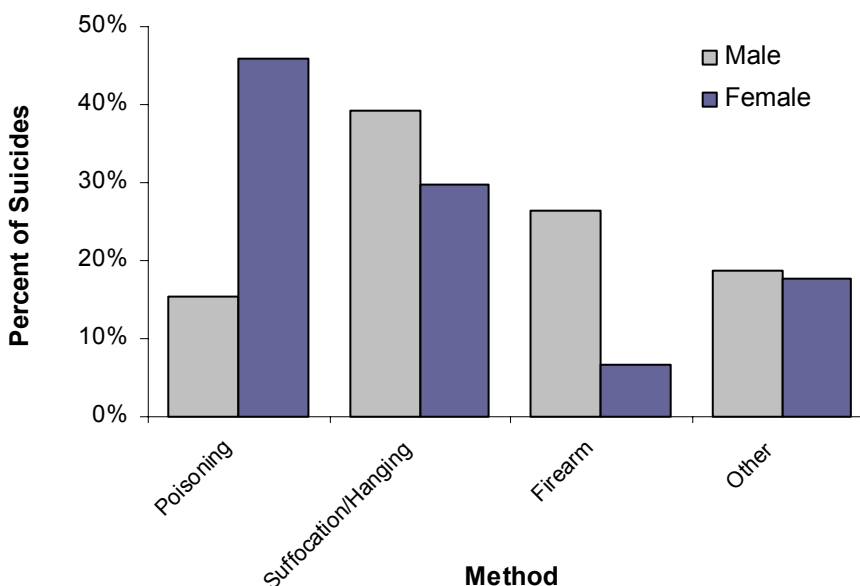
- Suicide took the lives of 425 Massachusetts residents.
- There were more than 2.4 times the number of suicides than homicides.
- The suicide rate from 1999 through 2002 was relatively stable.

2002 death data represents the latest mortality data available at time of publication.

* Represents crude rates.

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Figure 2. Suicides by Method and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2002



In 2002:

- Suffocation (including hanging, suffocation by plastic bag, etc.) was the leading method of suicide (n=160) in Massachusetts, followed by firearm (n=98) and poisoning (n=88).
- The leading suicide method varied by sex. For males, suffocation (n=138) and firearm (n=93) were the most common methods. For females, the leading methods were poisoning (n=34) followed by suffocation (n=22).

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Figure 3. Suicides by Age and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2002

Age Group (in years)	Males		Females		TOTAL	
	-N-	Rate	-N-	Rate	-N-	Rate
10 to 14	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
15 to 24	44	10.4	9	2.1	53	6.3
25 to 34	61	13.7	10	2.2	71	7.9
35 to 44	84	16.1	18	3.3	102	9.6
45 to 54	67	15.0	16	3.4	83	9.0
55 to 64	42	14.6	11	3.5	53	8.8
65 to 74	23	12.4	5	2.2	28	6.8
75 to 84	22	17.8	4	--	26	8.1
85+	8	22.8	1	--	9	7.2
Total	351	13.0	74	2.5	425	7.6

Rates are per 100,000 population; rates based on frequencies < 20 may be unstable, rates are not calculated on frequencies < 5.

Source: Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

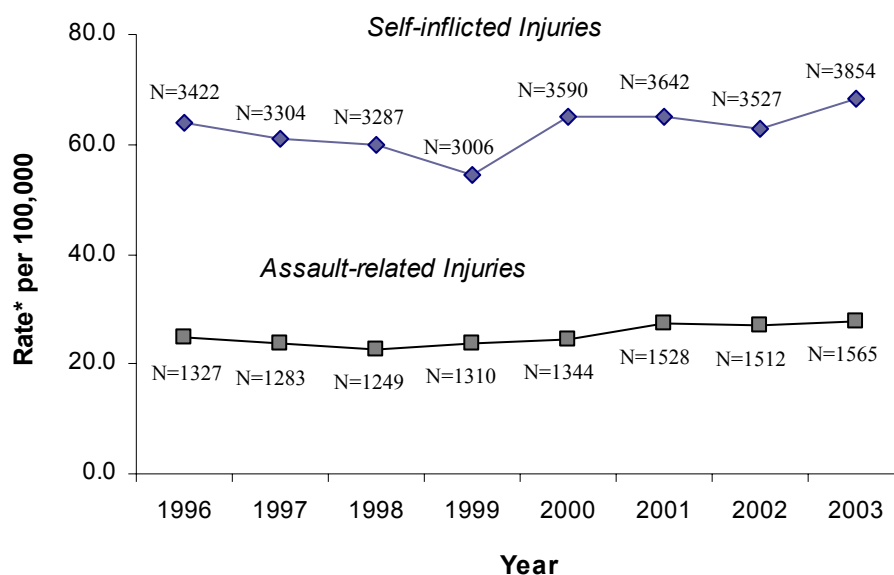
In 2002:

- The suicide rate among males was over 5 times the rate for females
- Males age 85 and older experienced the highest rate of suicide (22.8/100,000).
- Females experienced the highest rates of suicide between 35 and 64 years of age (3.3/100,000).
- 73% of all suicides in Massachusetts occurred to those between ages 25-64. In comparison 54% of the MA population in 2002 was between the ages of 25-64.

Hospitalizations for Non-Fatal Self-Inflicted Injuries

Non-fatal self-inflicted injuries described below include hospitalizations for non-fatal suicide attempts as well as injuries sustained during other intentional acts of self-harm (e.g., cutting, burning).

Figure 4. Trend in Self-Inflicted and Assault-Related Injury Hospitalization Rates*, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 1996-2003¹



In 2003 Among Residents Age 10 and over:

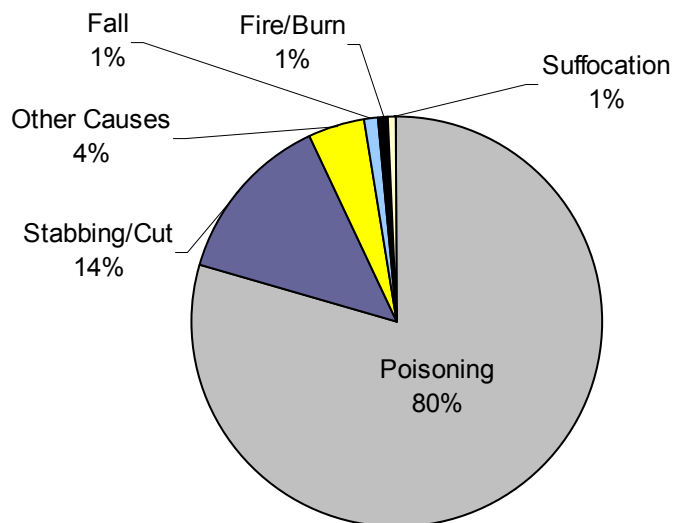
- There were 3,854 hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries, representing a 28% increase from 1999.
- Self-inflicted injury hospitalizations were approximately 2.5 times higher than assault-related hospitalizations.
- In addition, there were 569 observation stays (in 2002) and 6,304 emergency department visits for self-inflicted injuries.²

¹ Numbers and rates for hospital discharge data are slightly different than previously reported due to a change in methodology. Methodology was modified to be consistent with how ISP routinely reports injury data. * Represents crude rates.

² Massachusetts Outpatient Observation Stay Database and Massachusetts Emergency Department Discharge Database, MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy.

Source: Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database, MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

Figure 5. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalizations by Method, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2003

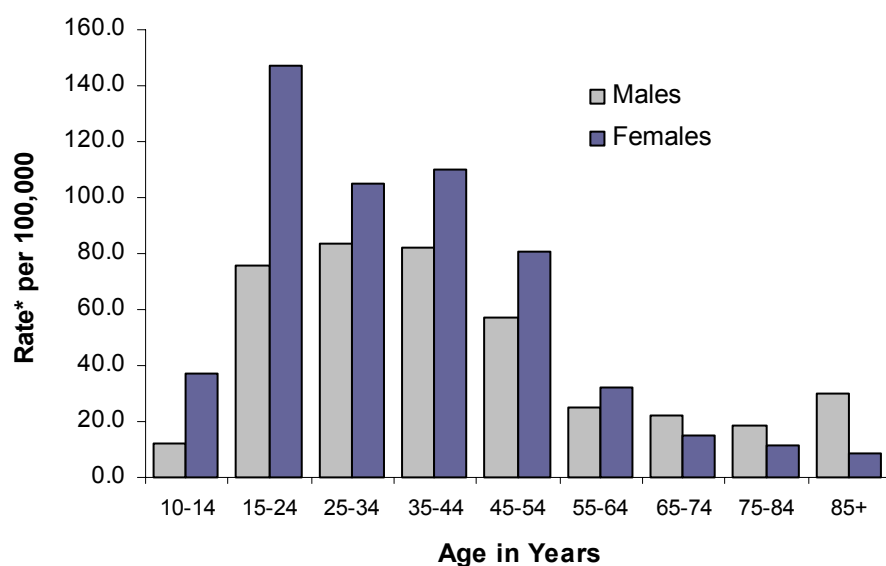


Source: Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database, MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

In 2003:

- The majority (80%) of hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries were due to poisoning.
- Stabbing and cutting accounted for 14% of the hospitalizations for self-inflicted injuries, while the most lethal methods (firearm and suffocation) accounted for less than 1.5% combined.

Figure 6. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalization Rates* by Age Group and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2003



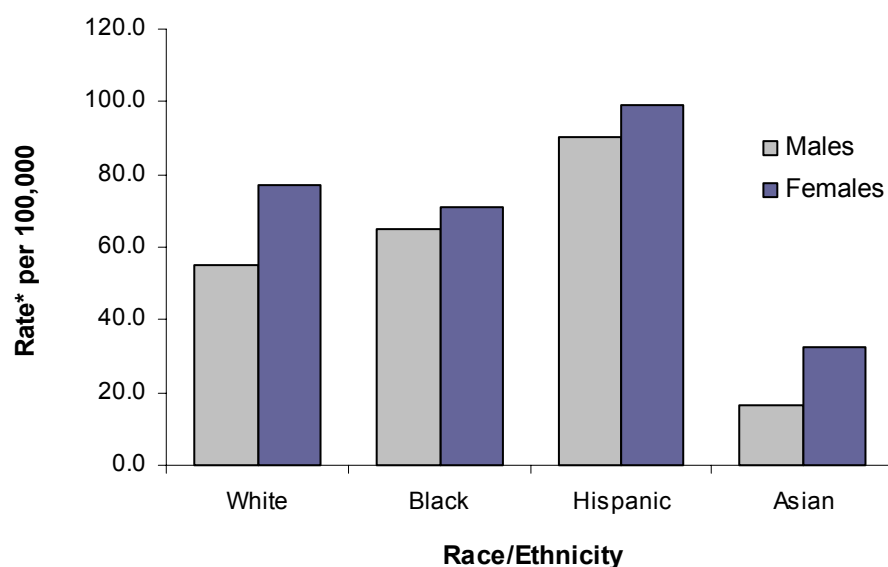
In 2003:

- Up to the age of 65, females had higher rates of hospitalization for self-inflicted injury than did men.
- Among females, the highest rate was in the 15-24 year age group (147 per 100,000); among males, the highest rate was in the 25-34 year age group (84 per 100,000).

* Represents crude rates.

Source: Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database, MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

Figure 7. Self-Inflicted Injury Hospitalization Rates* by Race/Ethnicity and Sex, Massachusetts Residents Age 10 and Older, 2003



In 2003:

- Hispanic men and women had higher hospitalizations rates for self-inflicted injury than whites, blacks, and Asians.
- Asians had the lowest rates of hospitalization for self-inflicted injury.

* Represents crude rates.

Source: Massachusetts Hospital Discharge Database, MA Division of Health Care Finance and Policy

For more information on suicide data or to learn more about suicide prevention activities in Massachusetts, please contact:

The Injury Surveillance Program

Center for Health Information, Statistics, Research and Evaluation
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, 6th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108
 617-624-5648

The Injury Prevention and Control Program

Center for Family and Community Health
 Massachusetts Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, 4th Floor
 Boston, MA 02108
 617-624-5402